



Childhood Connections

June 2, 2022

## Making Plans for our Big Goals



Since the announcement of the Office of Childhood (OOC) last year, we have been communicating our vision for every Missouri child to be safe, healthy, and successful learners. We talked about this vision with more than 2,000 early childhood stakeholders in more than 100 events in 2021. This year we are putting that vision into action as we start focusing our efforts around four big goals:

1. Expand Access to High-Quality Programs and Services
2. Improve the Quality of Programs and Services
3. Strengthen Community Leadership
4. Modernize Systems and Improve Operations

Sometimes setting big goals can be scary...we may have to change the strategies we use...we may have to think about our resources differently...we may not accomplish everything we aim to do. But as the management guru Peter Drucker is credited for saying, "what gets measured gets done," and we have a lot of important work to measure!

Stay tuned for details about the objectives and measurements for these big goals, we will be sharing more with you throughout 2022.

Sincerely,  
Pam Thomas  
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Childhood

## UPDATED! Office of Childhood Home Page

The DESE [OOC webpage](#) has been updated in several places. The [Contact Us](#) page is now updated with Child Care Subsidy, Safe Cribs, and Kindergarten Entry Assessment information. The [Child Care Subsidy information](#) is now accessible directly from the OOC home page. Finance information for Child Care Subsidy, [Afterschool](#), and [First Steps](#) is now accessed through their respective program webpages. We



### **NEW! Early Childhood State Advisory Council (ECSAC) Meeting**

The next meeting of the newly formed ECSAC will be on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. Read more about

will continue to update you when we make updates to OOC webpages.

### Child Care Relief Funds — Deadline to Apply

Currently, there are four applications available for child care providers to apply for relief funds. Here is a reminder of the applications and deadlines:

- Start-up a new child care program – closes June 30, 2022.
- Expand an existing child care program to serve more children – closes June 30, 2022.
- Enhance/upgrade an existing child care program – closes June 30, 2022.
- Technical/business assistance – closes September 30, 2022

Check out [Child Care Relief Funds](#) to learn more about these applications.

If you need to check on the status of an application you already submitted, you can email [ChildCareRelief@dese.mo.gov](mailto:ChildCareRelief@dese.mo.gov).

### NEW! Higher Education Relief Funds

There are targeted child care relief funds available to private and public institutions of higher education who are interested in starting up a new child care program or expanding an existing child care program, including lab schools.

- Extended! For public colleges and universities, the deadline to submit an application has been extended to June 30, 2022.
- For private colleges and universities, the deadline to submit an application is August 31, 2022.

Information was sent directly to colleges and universities by the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development. If your college or university did not receive the information, contact us at [childhood@dese.mo.gov](mailto:childhood@dese.mo.gov) and we will send it to you directly.

### NEW! Online Clock Hour Reassignment Feature

Attention child care professionals! Now you can automatically update your clock hours electronically. The electronic clock hour

the council meeting and how guests can listen live on the [ECSAC webpage](#).

### NEW! Stakeholder Engagement Summary

More than 100 early childhood professionals recently participated in a series of stakeholder events to provide input on the upcoming Professional Development Registry (PDR) and suggest ways to have a more coordinated training system. Read the [stakeholder summary](#) and learn more about the system in the [PDR overview](#).

### NEW! Parent Training and Information Center Resource!

Training is available for parents of infants, toddlers and young children with developmental delays or disabilities through Missouri's federally-funded Parent Training and Information Center known as Missouri Parents Act (MPACT). To find trainings and resources related to special education for young children, visit the [MPACT website](#).

### Did You Know?

If you are an existing child care program and need to purchase/replace outdoor playground equipment, make minor repairs to the facility,

reassignment will issue an immediate change in clock hours rather than processing a paper form. Individuals can reassign their own clock hours or those with program level access can reassign their staff's training.

To learn how to use the new Clock Hour Reassignment feature within your OPEN Toolbox account, check out the instructional guides and how-to videos posted at <https://www.openinitiative.org/>. If you need to create a Toolbox account you can view these [written or video instructions](#).

### **REMINDER! First Steps Enrollment and Fingerprinting Process**

The steps to complete a fingerprint based background check for new providers enrolling in the First Steps program was recently updated. Visit the [First Steps provider enrollment webpage](#) to review the steps for completing the enrollment paperwork, Missouri Volunteer and Employee Criminal History Service (MOVECHS) waiver and fingerprint process.

### **REMINDER! Child Care Subsidy Payment Resolutions**

Child care subsidy payment issues or discrepancies must be submitted within 60 days using a [Payment Resolution Request \(PRR\) form](#).

- Email completed forms to [CCPayments@dese.mo.gov](mailto:CCPayments@dese.mo.gov).
- PRR forms submitted more than 60 days after the verified service month will be denied.
- Payment resolutions without the correct information or documentation as specified on the form may be denied; however, requests may be submitted again if corrected information or supporting documentation is provided.

If you have questions or need technical assistance to complete the form, please call the Subsidy team at 573-522-1385.

### **REMINDER! Complete Your Child Care Enrollment Forms**

and/or upgrades like the heating or cooling system, you can apply for the Enhancement grant to assist with these costs.

- Eligible child care providers can only apply one time between August 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.
- If you haven't applied for Enhancement, there's still time!

Check out the Enhancement section of the [Terms & Conditions](#) for more information.

### **MOPATA Annual Retreat in June**

The Missouri Parents as Teachers Association (MOPATA) is hosting its Annual Retreat on June 13-15, 2022. The virtual retreat is available for all parent educators and professionals. It is provided for free for existing MOPATA members and \$30 for non-members. For more information about the retreat or for other professional development opportunities, review the [MOPATA website](#). If you are unable to attend the retreat, MOPATA hosts Monthly Collaborative Calls to provide conversations on a variety of topics relating to program implementation for supervisors,

Did you know that the OOC provides child care forms that include all the required parental acknowledgments?

For example, License and License-Exempt rules require specific parental acknowledgments to be on file for every child enrolled. The enrollment form provided by the OOC include a space for initialing and signing by the parent. If a parent supplies either their signature or their initials, the acknowledgement rules have been met.

As the Owner, Provider, and/or Director, please review each enrollment form thoroughly when the child enrolls. It's important to review and update your enrollment forms regularly to ensure you have current information for every child in the event of an emergency.

### **UPDATED! Rule Changes Effective May 30, 2022**

The final text of rule changes for License and License-Exempt child care facilities has been published in the Code of State Regulations. These rule changes became effective May 30, 2022. We encourage you to review our [Rules & Laws webpage](#) to review the regulations and overview charts that explain the rule changes. Any forms that were added or updated as a result of rule changes can be found on our [Child Care Forms page](#).

### **Spotlight on Success**

Spotlight on Success aims to share stories from local programs that are building community partnerships in order to strengthen and coordinate childhood programs.

administrators, and lead parent educators.

### **Hearing and Vision Loss Resource**

The Early Intervention section is excited to share a [resource document](#) outlining state-funded hearing and vision services available to children with hearing and/or vision loss. Professionals working with children with hearing and/or vision loss can use this document to identify programs and services that may be able to assist families.



Hamilton R-II Little Honey Bee Preschoolers during class. Photo courtesy of Hamilton R-II School District.

This month's spotlight is on the Hamilton R-II School District's Little Honey Bees Preschool. The two preschool teachers, Mica Westover and Leslie Miller, collaborate with the local technical school, Grand River Tech, to allow high school students from the Child Development class to assist in the preschool classroom to gain hands-on experience. Preschool staff members incorporated virtual field trips and nature walks during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to keep the students and staff engaged in learning. Preschool staff members also collaborate throughout the year with Missouri Parents as Teachers educators to provide group activities for their preschoolers.

### Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) Update



The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) provides funding over three years to coordinate a more effective, high-quality early childhood system that better prepares Missouri children for success.

Each month the Office of Childhood hosts a live webinar to provide updates and information about the PDG B-5 to stakeholders. A [recording](#) and the [PowerPoint slides](#) from the most recent webinar are available in case you are unable to attend and wish to hear the information.

A [PDG B-5 dashboard](#) is also updated monthly. This dashboard provides an at-a-glance look at priority areas, budget status, and key accomplishments.

## PDG B-5 Monthly Webinar

Join us for the next PDG B-5 Stakeholder webinar on June 28, 2022, from noon to 12:45 p.m. to learn more and ask questions. You can [access the webinar](#) in a Google Chrome or Safari web browser. Do not view in Internet Explorer. We hope you can participate.

## Archived Editions of Childhood Connections

Visit the Office of Childhood website to find [previous editions](#) of the Childhood Connections.

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